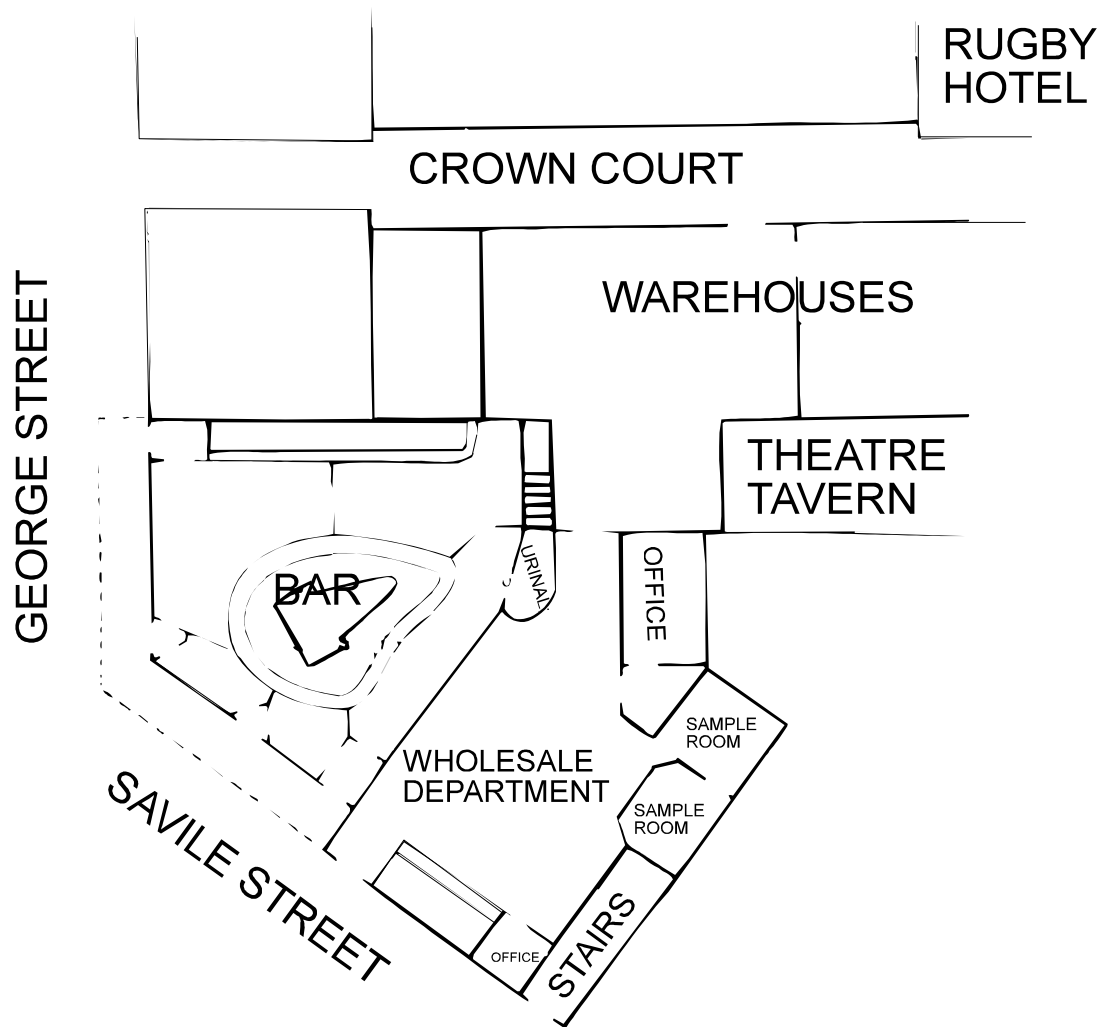


THE DRAM SHOP

Henry Wilson & Son Ltd.



Robert Barnard

**LOCAL HISTORY UNIT, HULL COLLEGE, PARK
St.**

The Dram Shop

Henry Wilson & Son

The Dram Shop was, until 1960, the retail department of Henry Wilson & Son Ltd., wine and spirit merchants. Therefore a history of the pub is also a history of the company.

The premises on the corner of Savile Street and George Street had been occupied by a spirit merchant, Richard Gelson, from at least 1831. The address was 27 George Street and later 60 or 61 Savile Street. Henry Wilson bought Gelson's business in 1849 after Gelson had succumbed to a cholera outbreak in that year.



Figure 1 60 & 61 Savile Street before 1877

Henry Wilson was born in Hedon in 1826 and both his parents (Robert and Ann) died in the same cholera scare that claimed Gelson. He was one of the first to enlist in the Rifle Volunteers under Colonel Pease. Henry also sat on the Hull Town Council for three years at the same time as other businessmen such as Henry Blundel. However, Wilson found his commercial interests suffered as a result and he did not seek another term as councillor.

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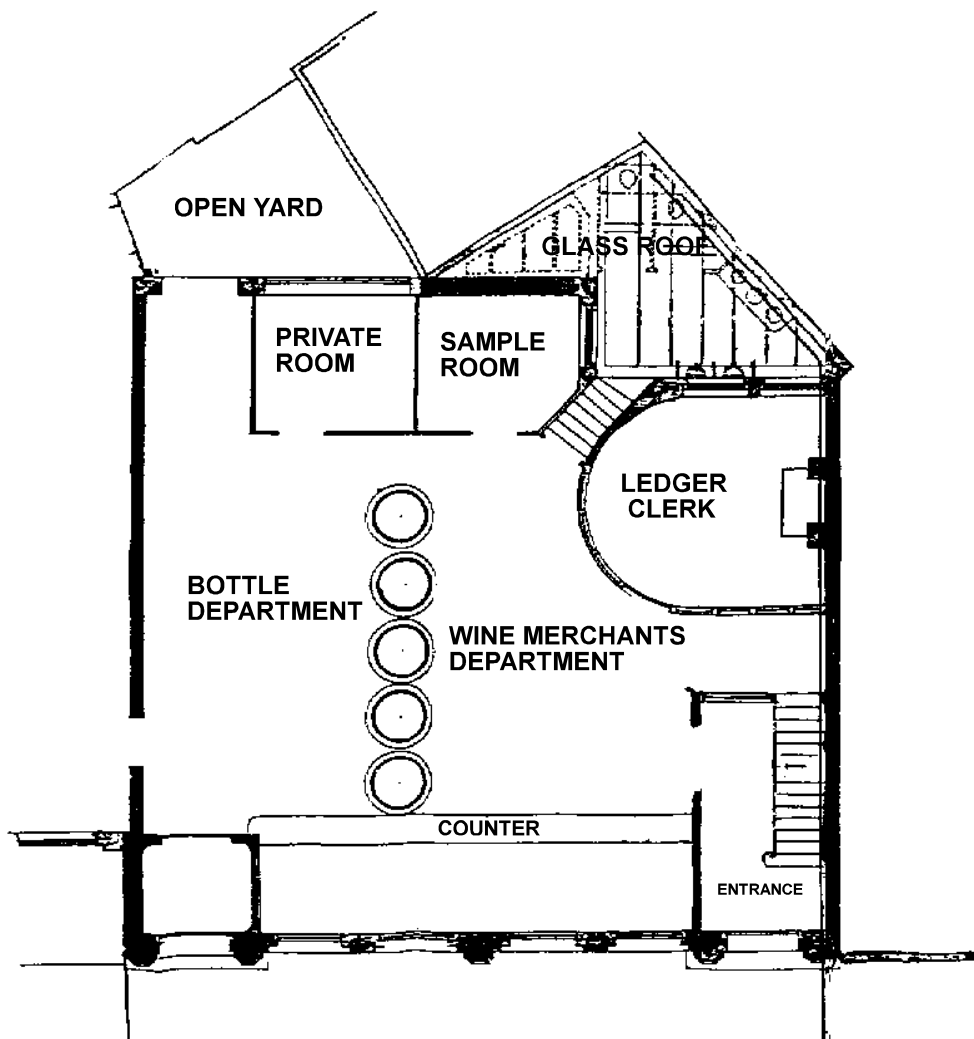


Figure 2 Savile House, 1877, Ground Plan (redrawn from OB 4597)

The Dram Shop



Figure 3 Savile House

Expansion

The firm continued to expand and by 1877 Wilson had acquired the adjacent premises in Savile Street when he rebuilt them as offices and cellars. The new building, Savile House, was three stories high and the maximum height of the walls was 35 feet. The architects were the well-known Hull firm of Smith and Brodrick and the style was Victorian Gothic with pointed arches over the church-like windows. Savile House contained four tasting cellars, sample room, spirit bottling department, spirit stores, etc. Before 1877 60 & 61 Savile Street had housed the wholesale and retail departments and the offices and cellars.

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Henry Wilson was also a whisky blender, both Scotch and Irish, and needed bonded warehouses to store the maturing barrels. His main bond was in Silvester Street, at the Bond Street end, which contained a floorage space of 12 000 square feet in 1893. By the early 1900s the Silvester Street bond had expanded by almost double, they were sold in 1957. Wilson also had stores in Wincolmlee and these still carry a Henry Wilson & Son sign, partly obscured by a later Bass, Mitchells & Butler board.

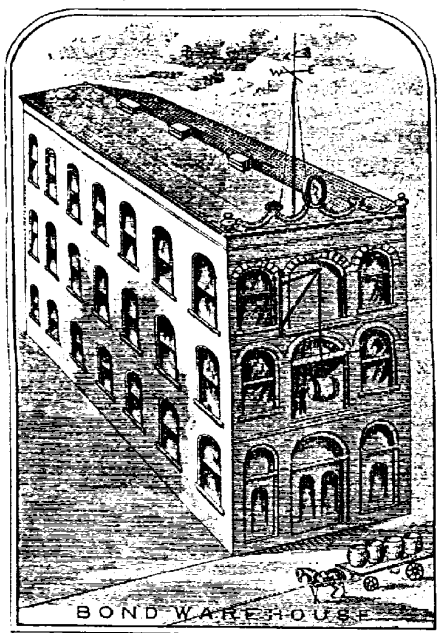


Figure 5 Bond, 1893, Silvester St.



Figure 4 Savile H



Figure 6 Bond, early 1900s, Silvester St.

The Dram Shop

The Dram Shop

With the building of Savile House offices and cellars the corner premises could concentrate on the retail trade and took on more of the character of a public house. Almost two thirds of the ground floor of 60 & 61 Savile Street became a dram shop and this became the official name of the pub after the Second World War.

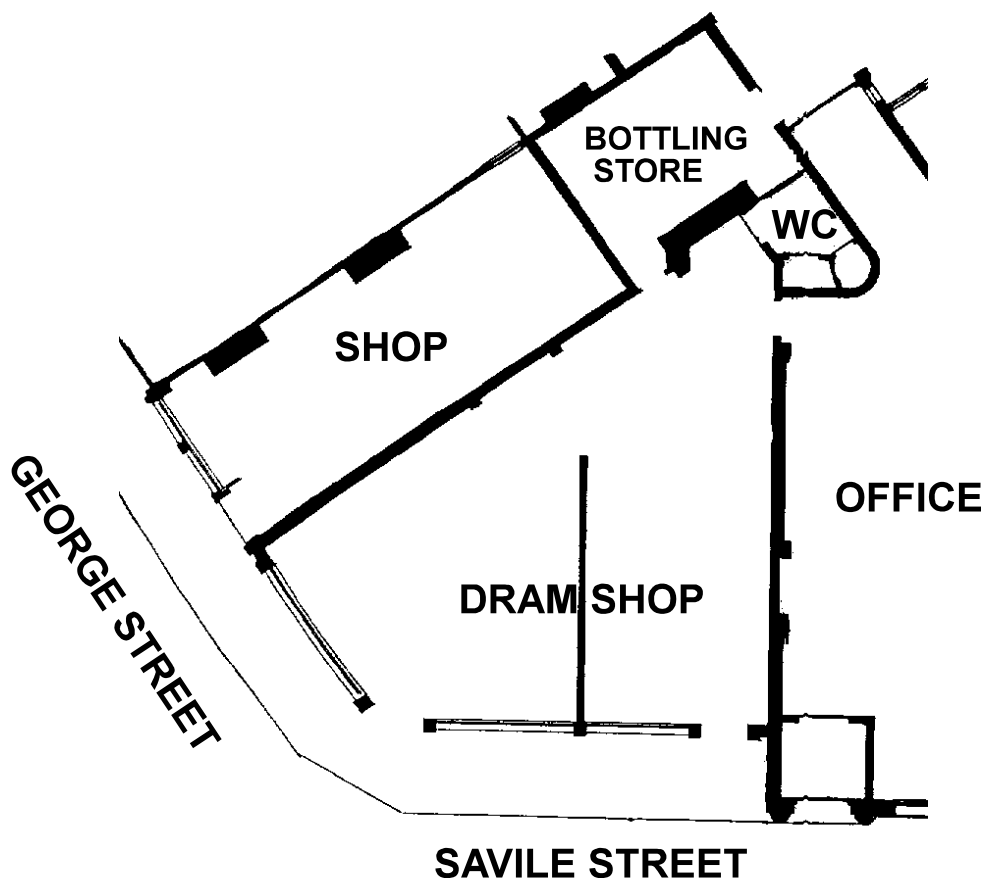


Figure 7 60 & 61 Savile Street before 1894 (redrawn from 1894 43)

A peculiarity of trade directories is that they do not list retail departments of wine and spirit merchants under public houses, which could lead to the incorrect conclusion that they were not licensed. The Black Boy, High Street, 'disappeared' from the directories for fifty years when it was the offices of a wine and spirit merchant but it seems to have had an 'on' license during

The Dram Shop

this period. Drinkers at the Black Boy were limited to the hours of 11am to 3pm only. Wilson's opening hours were probably equally restricted until 1877. After 1877, with the separation of the retail and wholesale trade, 60 and 61 Savile Street probably received a full six day license for consumption of wines, beers and spirits both on and off the premises. Savile House, the wholesale department, only had a wine and spirits off license with no beer license in 1911. A valuation of Henry Wilson & Son's premises in 1911 stated that J. Tomlinson had been the manager of 60 & 61 Savile Street since 1877. The corner is also marked as a public house on the 1890 Ordnance Survey plan.

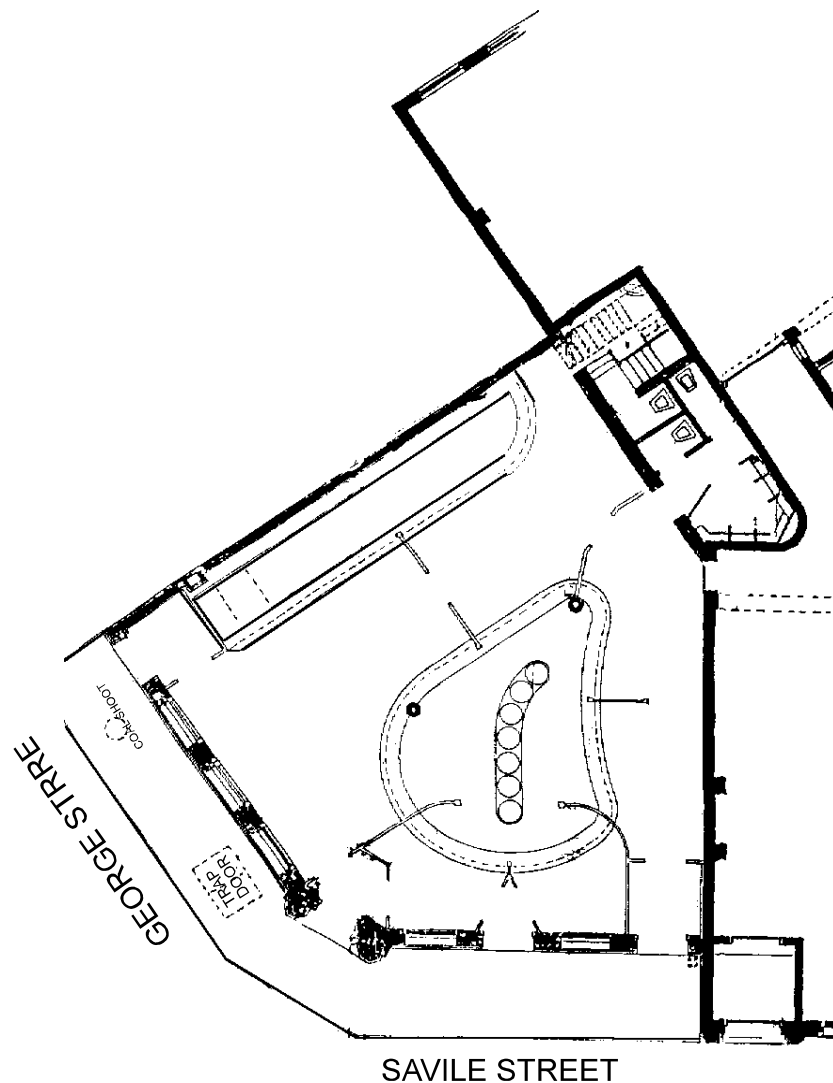


Figure 8 60 & 61 Savile St. in 1894 (redrawn from 1894 43).

The Dram Shop

The pub was reconstructed in 1894 and has not substantially changed since then. Smith and Brodrick were again the architects and the style matched that of Savile House. The decoration on the outside is more ornate than Savile House with numerous beasts' heads looking like gargoyles. Inside the plastered ceiling continues the 'over the top' decoration. The most distinctive feature of the pub is the circular bar, which seems to have been unique in Hull although it was a popular design feature in other cities at the time. The Dram Shop originally also had a traditional long bar along one wall and the room was partitioned to create four drinking areas. The cellar had space for twenty-four barrels and eight of these were 'on tap'. The first floor contained three sitting rooms, kitchen, pantry, spirit room, stores and a private WC. The second floor had five bedrooms, bathroom and two boxrooms.



Figure 9 Early 1900s showing 60 & 61 Savile St. and Savile House.

Henry Wilson took his son, George Thorpe Wilson, into partnership between 1885 and 1889 and traded as Henry Wilson

The Dram Shop

& Son. By 1895 the firm had become a limited company, Henry Wilson & Son Ltd. The business had evidently become successful as by the 1880s Henry Wilson had moved to Cottingham House, Newgate, Cottingham, which had been described by the Hull historian, Tickell, in 1796 as one of the chief houses in Cottingham.

Henry Wilson died in 1896 aged 70 and is buried in Cottingham Cemetery. George Thorpe Wilson became managing director of the company. Henry also had two other sons, apart from George.

George continued to live at Cottingham House for a short time before moving to Thorpe Hall, Brantinghamthorpe, the former home of Christopher Sykes. By 1907 he had moved again as Thorpe Hall was occupied by Rupert Beckett and by 1920 George was living in Menton, France. George Thorpe Wilson was educated locally and at Rostock, Germany. He served for seven years in the Second East Riding Artillery Volunteers and became president of Brough Golf Club. George married Adele Clitheroe Graves.



Figure 10 George Thorpe Wilson

By the early 1900s Henry Wilson & Son Ltd. had expanded by taking over other wine and spirit merchants including Herbert

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Drury, 220 Hessle Road; Christie & Co., 23 Mytongate (the Imperial Measure); The Argyle Wine Co., 233 Anlaby Road (the Argyle pub); W. Waudby & Co., 51 Prospect Street (Ye Hole In Ye Wall); G. & J. T. Sellers, 5 & 6 Fossgate, York. Wilson's also became agents for Bass, Ratcliffe & Gretton, W. Waudby had been their agent in the 1890s. Around 1928 Wilson's took over W. Wheatley & Co., wine & spirit merchants of 55 & 56 Mytongate including at least four of their pubs, the Windmill, Witham; Grapes, Ferry Lane; Corn Exchange Buffet, North Church Side and the Rifle Tavern, Hessle Road. (Confusingly Wheatley had already mortgaged most of his property, including the Old Corn Exchange, to Bass, Ratcliffe & Gretton in 1913.) Wilson's used the Mytongate premises as bottling stores.

Wilson's bottled Bass brewed beer under their own name in addition to bottling Guinness. Wilson's Special Stout was apparently brewed especially for them by Bass at Burton on Trent. Henry Wilson & Son built up a chain of off-licenses including:

78 Princes Avenue.
95 Hessle Road.
97 Portobello Street.
163 Stoneferry Road.
78 St. George's Road.

In 1877 Henry Wilson bought the Doncaster Arms, High Street, from the Charterhouse. The Doncaster Arms closed in 1885.

Bass

As agents for Bass, Henry Wilson & Son managed a number of public houses for Bass including, probably amongst others, at various times:

Haworth Arms, Cottingham Road.
Holderness Hotel, Dansom Lane.
Botanic Hotel, Spring Bank.

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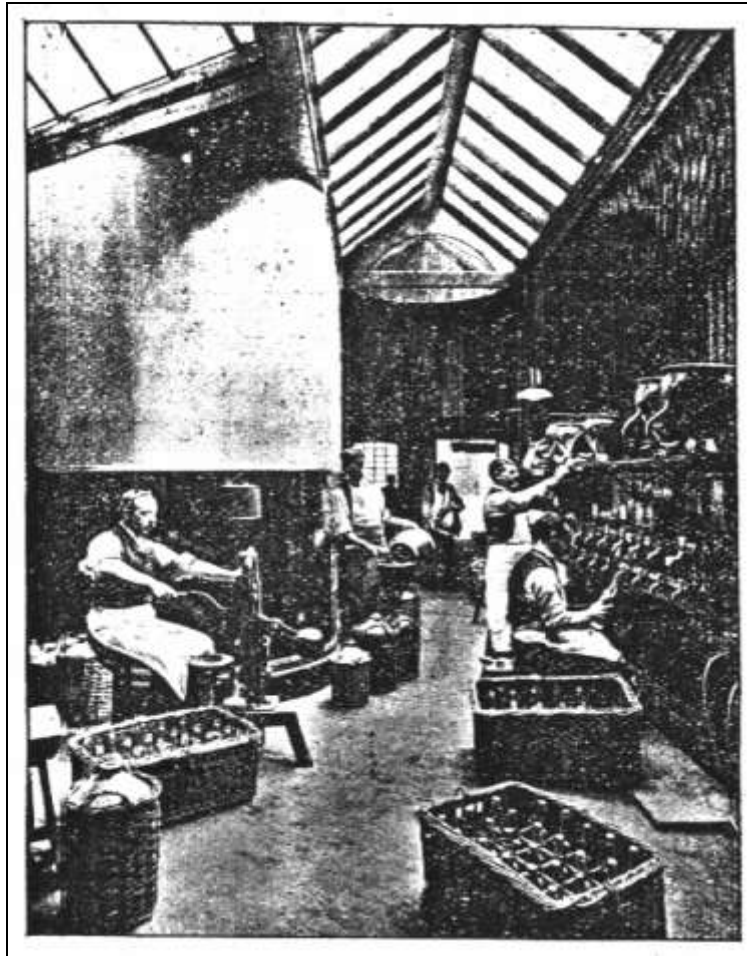


Figure 11 Savile House, bottle department.

Henry Wilson & Son Ltd. were taken over by Bass, Mitchells & Butler (Northern) Ltd. who, as Bass North Ltd. are still the owners today. Wilson's are last recorded in the 1967 trade directory but Bass seem to have effectively bought the company in 1960. In 1960 Bass purchased the Argyle Vaults; Dram Shop (*"which premises with other premises were formerly known as Savile House"*); showrooms and offices at 6/8 George Street; Fiveways Hotel; George Inn, Walton Street; Grapes Tavern, Stoneferry; Rifle Tavern; 220 Hesse Road; Old Corn Exchange Bottle Stores and Inn; 78 Princes Avenue; Theatre Tavern, 3 Dock Street and the delicensed Blue Bell, 117 Witham.

James Richard Lloyd was the Director of Henry Wilson & Son at takeover and Thomas Harry Charles was the Secretary. Savile House was demolished in 1974.

The Dram Shop



Figure 12 Before it was known as the Dram Shop, 60 & 61 Savile St. was Wilsons Corner, as the sign shows.

It has been difficult to compile a list of licensees as trade directories do not list them. The living accommodation above the Dram Shop was converted into two flats and entries in the Electoral Register do not state which, if either, was the managers flat.



SPIRITS.

WHISKIES.

	Gallon.	½-Bottle.	Bottle.
SCOTCH, OLD MATURED 40 W.P.	16/-	—	2/8
.. .. 30 W.P.	16/-	—	3/-
.. .. "Stirling Castle"	21/-	1/10	3/6
.. .. "Balmoral Castle"	23/6	2/1	4/-
.. .. LION BLEND	24/-	—	4/-
.. .. OLD BLENDED GLENLIVET	24/-	2/1	4/-
.. .. OLD LIQUEUR	25/6	—	4/3
.. .. "Highland Chief" 22 yrs. old	27/-	—	4/6
.. .. "Wilson's No. 1, 14 years old	29/-	—	4/10
IRISH, OLD	16/-	—	2/8
.. .. 40 W.P.	16/-	—	3/-
.. .. 30 W.P.	18/-	—	3/1
.. .. "Limerick Castle"	21/-	1/10	3/6
.. .. "Dublin Castle"	23/6	2/1	4/-
.. .. V.V.O.	27/-	—	4/6

FRENCH BRANDIES.

OLD PALE OR BROWN	per bottle 4/-, 4/6, 5/-, 5/6
HENNESSY'S, MARTELL'S, & HINE'S * * * * *	per bot. 5/3, 5/9, 6/3
LIQUEUR and FINEST OLD CHAMPAGNE COGNAC	per bottle 6/6 and 7/6
BRITISH BRANDY	per bottle 2/6, 3/2

RUM.

	Gallon!	½-Bottle	Bottle.
OLD VATTED	16/-	—	2/8
OLD	14/-	—	2/4
FINEST OLD JAMAICA	21/-	1/10	3/6
PASSOVER RUM	—	2/7	5/-

GIN.

	Gallon.	Bottle
NICHOLSON'S FINEST	59 W.P. 11/6	1/11
..	40 W.P. 14/-	2/4
..	17/-	2/10
OLD TOM	18/-	3/-
HOLLANDS, (Geneva) Nolet's	—	3/1
.. .. J. de Kuyper's	—	3/3

WINES.

PORT.

	Price per Bottle.
PORT, from the wood	1/- 1/3 1/8 *1/9 2/- 2/6
Invalid Port—Specially selected & shipped as an Invalid Wine	2/6
FINE OLD PORT, matured in the wood	3/- 3/8
FINE OLD CRUSTED PORT	2/6 3/- 3/6 4/-
VERY CHOICE OLD PORT	4/6 5/- 6/- 7/-
FINEST PRIORATO PORT	Quart Flaçon 2/-

* Exceptional Value.

SHERRY

	Price per Bottle.
GOOD PALE and GOLD SHERRY	1/- 1/3 *1/9 2/-
FINE PALE and GOLD SHERRY	2/6 3/- 3/6 4/-
SUPERIOR PALE GOLD and BROWN	4/6 5/- 5/6 6/-

* An excellent Dinner Wine.

CLARET.

	Dozen.	Bottle!
MEDOC (an excellent Dinner Wine)	15/-	1/8
ST. EMILION	18/-	1/6
ST. JULIEN	21/-	1/9
SUPERIOR ST. JULIEN	24/-	2/-
ST. ESTEFHE	30/-	2/6
Other high-class Wines	42/- to 96/- per doz.	

BURGUNDY.

	Dozen.	Bottle.
BEAUJOLAIS	21/-	1/9
MAGON	24/-	2/-
BEAUNE	80/- 36/- 2/6 3/-	
VOLNAY	42/- 49/- 3/6 4/-	

CHAMPAGNE.

	Bottle.	½-Bottle.
HENRI LOVINS	2/10	1/8
LOUIS ROCHE ET FILS, Extra Quality, Extra Dry	4/8	2/7
JULES RONDEAU	—	½-Bottles 1/1

All the principal brands kept in stock

HOCKS and MOSELLES.

STILL	per bottle 2/ 2/6 3/ 3/6
SPARKLING	4/- 4/8 5/2

Half Bottles of all Wines.

LIQUEURS

of all description at store prices.

BOTTLED ALES AND STOUT.

	Large.	Small.
BASS'S PALE ALE	—	1/9
BASS'S NO. 5	2/6	—
ALLSOPP'S XXX	2/6	—
GUINNESS'S	3/-	1/9
JACOB'S PILSENER LAGER	—	2/-

Small Casks at Brewery Prices.

